CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for a media server residing on a home network to perform steps comprising:

establishing a two-way digital connection with a jukebox, the jukebox having a plurality of titles stored therein;

querying the jukebox for information regarding titles stored in the jukebox;

compiling and caching a title directory for the titles stored in the jukebox;

receiving a request to use the jukebox from a media client on the home network, the media client being connected to a display device;

sending the title directory to the media client for presenting an interactive user interface on the display device;

receiving a request from the media client for a selected title in the jukebox;

retrieving contents of the selected title from the jukebox; and

transmitting the contents of the selected title to the media client for display on the display device.

2. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the step of compiling the title directory includes accessing the Internet for downloading additional information[SA11] for a title stored in the jukebox, and presenting the downloaded information in the title directory.

3. A computer-readable medium as in claim 2, wherein the title directory includes a link to an Internet site containing information for a title stored in the jukebox.

4. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, having further computer-readable instructions for performing the step of presenting the jukebox to the home network for discovery by other devices connected to the home network.

5. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, having further computer-readable instructions for performing the step of converting the contents of the selected title, and wherein the step of transmitting transmits the converted contents to the media client.

6. A computer-readable medium as in claim 5, wherein the step of converting adapts the contents of the selected title based on display characteristics of the display device connected to the media client.

7. A computer-readable medium as in claim 5, wherein the step of converting transcodes the contents of the selected title for transmission over the home network.

8. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the titles stored in the jukebox are on optical discs.

9. A computer-readable medium as in claim 8, wherein the optical discs are in the DVD format.

10. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the two-way digital connection between the media server and the jukebox is based on the IEEE 1394 standard.

11. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for a media client residing on a home network and connected to a display device to perform steps comprising:

presenting on the display device an option to use a jukebox for selection by the user, the jukebox being connected to the home network via a media server;

receiving a first user input signal selecting the option to use the jukebox;

querying the media server connected to the jukebox for information on titles stored in the jukebox;

receiving from the media server the information on titles stored in the jukebox;

presenting an interactive user interface on the display device to present the information on the titles stored in the jukebox;

receiving a second user input signal requesting viewing of a selected title in the jukebox;

requesting the media server for contents of the selected title;

receiving the contents of the selected title from the media server; and

displaying the contents of the selected title on the display device.

12. A computer-readable medium as in claim 11, wherein the display device is a television.

13. A computer-readable medium as in claim 12, wherein the step of displaying includes sending analog video signals to the television.

14. A computer-readable medium as in claim 12, wherein the media client is built into the television.

15. A computer-readable medium as in claim 11, wherein the step of presenting an interactive user interface includes displaying menus on different levels in accordance with received user input signals.

16. A computer-readable medium as in claim 11, having further computer-readable instructions for performing the step of discovering the jukebox on the home network through the media server.

17. A home entertainment system comprising:

a home network;

a jukebox having a plurality of titles stored therein;

a media server connected to the home network and having a two-way digital connection with the jukebox;

a display device; and

a media client connected to the display device and connected to the home network,

the media server being programmed to present the jukebox for discovery on the home network, compile a title directory for the titles stored in the jukebox, send the title directory to

the media client, retrieve contents of a selected title from the jukebox, and transmit the contents of the selected title to the media client for display on the display device, the media client being programmed to receive a user request to use the jukebox, display an interactive user interface on the display device to present the title directory, receive a user input signal selecting the selected title, request the media server to send the contents of the selected title, and display the contents of the selected title on the display device.

18. A home entertainment system as in claim 17, wherein the display device is a television.

19. A home entertainment system as in claim 17, further including an Internet access device connected to the home network, and wherein the media server is further programmed to access the Internet for downloading information for a title stored in the jukebox, and presenting the downloaded information in the title directory[SA12].

20. A home entertainment system as in claim 17, wherein the title directory compiled by the media server includes a link to an Internet site containing additional information for a title stored in the jukebox.

21. A home entertainment system as in claim 20, wherein the media client is programmed to access the link to obtain the additional information for display on the television.

22. A home entertainment system as in claim 17, wherein the media server is further programmed to convert the contents of the selected title, and transmit the converted contents to the media client.

23. A home entertainment system as in claim 22, wherein the media server adapts the contents of the selected title based on display characteristics of the display device connected to the media client.

24. A home entertainment system as in claim 17, wherein the titles stored in the jukebox are on optical discs.

25. A home entertainment system as in claim 24, wherein the optical discs are in the DVD format.

26. A home entertainment system as in claim 17, wherein the two-way digital connection between the media server and the jukebox is a connection based on the IEEE 1394 standard.